

# USDA Foods Updates

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[www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)



Food and Nutrition Division  
Food Distribution Program

# Ordering Updates

# SY25 Ordering Updates

**All ordering is complete for SY25. RAs can validate with a Requisition Status Report in WBSCM and checking "Requisition Status" is "Approved by SDA".**

- Sales Orders that are in "Order Received" status are available at your contracted warehouse and must be placed on a delivery schedule as soon as possible.
- Processors have received allocations of state account pounds. Schools can validate cancelled or reduced requisitions based on final amount loaded into tracking systems.

**TX-UNPS Weekly Commodity Bulletin will no longer track entitlement allocations and balances for SY25.**

- USDA Foods: Ordering for Success Training is being provided by the ESCs.

# SY26 Preparation

## Upcoming Meetings with TDA:

- TDA will be holding Zoom Meetings with schools serviced by each contracted warehouse region in September. **THIS IS INTENDED FOR THOSE THAT FORECAST, MENU PLAN, AND SUBMIT ORDERS IN WBSCM.**
- The meeting discusses ordering trends from SY25 to help schools prepare for planning and forecasting for round 1 direct delivery starting in January.
- RAs will be shown what they requested, vs what was ordered. Including an in-depth dive into entitlement availability for the region, and how larger RAs drive demand coming into warehouses for direct delivery.

## Forecasting:

- RAs should be forecasting with prior year usage, NOT requests.
- **Make adjustments** for changing operational needs.

# SY26 Preparation

**All Webinars will be recorded and posted for future reference.**

Gold Star Regions – 9/24/24 10am-11am CST

US Foods Region – 9/25/24 10am-11am CST

El Pasoans Region – 9/26/24 10am-11am CST

San Antonio Region – 9/27/24 10am-11am CST

# SY26 Preparation

October 1st - DoD Opt-In form will be available on squaremeals.

- Due October 31st.
- A yes response is required to be eligible to participate and have a portion of planned assistance level set aside for the SY26 DoD FFAV program.

October 1st - USDA Foods Feedback survey will be available on squaremeals.

- Due October 31st.
- This will impact materials available in the WBSCM catalog.
- Utilize the September Direct Delivery Webinar information to provide TDA with feedback on which materials should be offered for SY26.

# Round 1 Processing Requests

Schools should not be requesting USDA Foods diverted to a processor when bid has not yet been awarded during round 1.

- This includes Commodity Processing contracts and FSMCs contracts.
- Work with your procurement team or cooperative to ensure bids are awarded timely.

Diverting pounds without an awarded Bid:

- Leads to unclaimed inventory at the processor impacting performance.
- School loses the value of USDA Foods.

# Inventory Updates

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## **State Contracted Warehouse Contracts**

- Warehouse Contracts have now been posted on Squaremeals.
- PIR is no longer needed

## **Allocated Inventory at warehouses**

- Reminders that all inventory (dry, cooler, freezer) that is not utilized efficiently, will be placed on a delivery order by the warehouse.

## **Paying Invoices**

- Reminder that all invoices need to be paid within 30 days of receiving their inventory.

## **Poultry Focus Group**

- TDA is currently working on a Poultry Focus Group and will be inviting selected ESCs to participate on September 27th.